



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	BFT
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01-09-2022 until 31-03-2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Germany
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Berlin
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Technische Universitat Berlin
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty III: Prozesswissenschaften

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I went on a study exchange to broaden my knowledge in the Food technology field and dive into the valuable experience of the social chaos that an ERASMUS exchange brings along, especially in a vivid city like Berlin is.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

My choice was mostly based on the city itself and the courses offered by the University. Berlin has always caught my eye as an immensely interesting city with a lot of recent history which is still felt today. Together with its vibrant city- and nightlife it has been a great wish for me to experience this first-hand by living here.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

Definitely either go by train or by bus. Train is your best option, since its cheap, comfortable and you have plenty space for your luggage without having to pay additional fees. Book the train ticket either through the German Deutsche Bahn or NS International, minimally a month in advance to have the best fares.

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Sustainable Innovation	6	Course on different types of modern innovation and its hurdles, that contribute to innovation of towards a sustainable world.	4	Although not closely related to my study field the content was interesting, filled with loads of guest lectures and the course was finished with an essay and Multiple choice exam.
2	Fundamentals of Project Management	6	Knowledge on projects from beginning to end with the different steps layed out together with its posed challenged	3	This course was offered online which bummed me out a bit. The group work and the content of the course was pretty interesting and applicable though.
3	Getranketechnologie	6	Split into tow modules (Wein + Spirituosen and Alkoholfrei getranke( First module is about the chemical and engineering process for the production of spirits and wine. The Alkoholfrei getranke is about the regulations, requirements and processes of alcohol free drinks (sodas etc.)	4	Content of the course was fun and interesting , however offered partly online, the seminars and lectures that were in person we got to taste different types wine with the corresponding explanations, so that was not that bad after all. The course is fully in German though.
4	Technologie der Malz- und Bierherstellung	9	Extensive course about the beer making process from the agricultural growing of the raw materials to the quality of the end-product.	5	My favourite course of my exchange. The course is intensive in contact hours for a TU Berlin course (3 lectures of 2.5 hours a week) but the professors and students are highly motivated and experienced in their fields and bring the content with a lot of enthusiasm.
5	German Intensive course B1 and Normal B2.1 course (not included in LA, but highly recommended)	(6 x2)	German intensive course before the semester and B2.1 course during the semester.	5	I cannot stress enough how valuable it was to follow additional German courses next to my regular ones. The intensive one was mandatory before the semester because my German level was not

					sufficient before, but even if it is I would recommend doing them. You get to meet a lot of other ERASMUS students and familiarize not only with the language but also the culture and history of Germany and Berlin.
6					

**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

Less contact hours as compared to Wageningen. One big semester with exams at the end. (note that the semester starts later and ends later so does not run in sync with the WUR one) Courses run during the entire semester which can cause for some scheduling issues but there are almost never hours where your attendance is mandatory so to can always figure a way around. Academic level is hard to estimate because most of the courses are quite different from my usual study field, but I would say the content of the course is on par or a bit lower than wageningen but the examination seemed easier. (More reproduction and assignment focussed)

**What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)**

Culture of the university is a but more distant. Germans sure do love their overcomplicated paperwork construction for simple task, but you get used to it. Lecturers in my department were just as approachable as the ones at WUR, but I think that is more the exception than the rule.

**What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

TU Berlin, together with the other Berlin University offer a huge variety of sports you can participate in. Its called hochshulesport and I would definitely recommend it. Another great facility is the Mensa, where you can eat immense meals for a tiny price :)

## 5.Housing-travelling-living

**What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

I was lucky enough to get enrolled into one of the dorms of Studierendenwerk (similar to Idealis). I lived in a huge international dorm with 7 floors of 22 people and I think this dorm was the heart of my wonderful Berlin experience. (If you have the choice I highly recommend living at the Siegmunds Hof dorm.) Although the facilities are a bit outdated and messy, the people, price and location make it so incredibly worthwhile.

**What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

I cannot really tell you, I spent my time with mostly my dormmates and ERASMUS students, the cultures I have come across are numerous, but the German student life was a bit difficult to get a hold of.

**Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

If you get to live at a Studierendenwerk dorm you are in luck and you pay around 350-400 euros. If you have to find a flat in other ways (WG-gesucht for example) I have heard of people paying anywhere between 400-1200 euros a month.

**Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

Berlin public transport is amazing, you get a student card with your enrolment for the semester that includes all public transport in Berlin. The city is huge but it takes you anywhere.

## 6. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

If you are in to it I would say dive into the nightlife. (Download the Resident Advisor app and look for interesting events that suit your taste, tickets can also be purchased through the app) My personal favourites are RSO, Club OST, Alte munze and if you are there in the summer semester check out Sisyphus.

Furthermore, Teufelsberg is nice and the surrounding forests are very accessible and make for perfect walks.

Other destinations around Berlin that are worth a try are Potsdam and cute little towns like Beelitz.

Not really close but I also visited Krakow and Auschwitz with my roommates, which was an unforgettable and impressive experience.

**What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?**

Something that really surprised me was all the nature that surrounds Berlin, go for walks in the forest and maybe the best is to rent a kayak and go kayaking on the river through the woods in Spreewald.

Get a student museum card for the national museums. It is I believe 30 euros and you can visit a lot of museums for free for the semester.

There are also a lot of good and fun concerts in Berlin, look up your favourite artists and pay them a visit in the many venues.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

See the tips above. Just make the best out of all your free time.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

My biggest challenge was to prioritize all the activities and sights in one semester. If anything, this is a really positive challenge.

### What was your best memory abroad?

As said probably the people I met in my dorm and the activities we did during our semesters together. The one that stands out is the visit to Auschwitz, to visit such a place with people from all over the world with diverse cultures was a very humbling and unifying experience.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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